levels of Sulphur-dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen are within the permissible limits; however, the levels of particulate matter are on the high side. This is due to the unsatisfactory functioning of the Electro-Static Precipitators (ESP's) in some units. The concerned authorities have been asked to instal efficient Electrostatic Precipitators to minimise the emission of particulate matter.

(c) No, Sir.

Equal pay for equal work

1392. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has in the judgement earlier declared equal pay for equal work as a Fundamental Right;

(b) whether the Home Ministry has issued directives/directions to all Departments to pay equal for equal work;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of Central departments, Public Undertakings who have failed to implement the said directions so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature is covered by the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The Act provides that no employer shall pay to any worker, employed by him in an establishment or employment remuneration, whether payable in cash or kind, at rates less favourable than those at which remuneration is paid by him to workers of the opposite sex in such establishment or employment for the same work or work of a similar nature. As far as the Supreme Court order referred to in the question is concerned, (presumably the Hon'ble Member has in view the Court's Judgement in Writ Petition No. 4676 of 1978) the Delhi Administration has informed that it has been implemented by revising the pay-scales of Drivers of Delhi Police with effect from 1-1-1973.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Collection of funds in Bombay to assist extremists in Punjab

1393. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in "Navbharat Times" of 23rd February, 1986 to the effect that according to a high level enquiry, it has been found that lacs of rupees collected from Bombay have been sent to Punjab to help and assist the extramists;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken against those who collected and donated the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item. Collection of funds from Bombay to help extremists in Punjab has not come to notice so far.

(c) Does not arise.

Improvement of Service Conditions of Defence Personnel

1394. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken recently by Government to improve

service conditions of defence personnel;

(b) whether Government are considering delinking of pay from the rank structure for boosting the morale of armed forces; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence has forwarded any proposal to the Ministry of Finance for Income-tax exemptions to armed forces personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) The following steps have been taken by Government recently to improve the service conditions of Defence personnal:—

(i) As a result of two cadre reviews in 1981 and 1984, appointments have been upgraded without altering the total cadre structure of the three Services, and this has considerably improved the promotion prospects of Services officers.

(ii) The rates of various allowances and perquisites of the Armed Forces personnel were revised upwards in January, 1983. The initial/ Renewal Outfit Allowance, Kit Maintenance Allowance, Air Despatch Pay, Dip Money, Diving Allowance, Para Jump Instructor's Pay, were increased by 50 per cent. New concessions were also given. Free ration was allowed in peace areas also, to Service officers upto the rank of Colonel and equivalent. After further review in 1984, this facility was extended up to the rank of Brigadier and equivalent.

(b) The pay structure of the Armed Forces is at present under consideration of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, and its report is expected shortly. Further action can only be taken thereafter.

(c) As issues relating to income tax exemption are general in nature, the Ministry of Finance has been requested to place some suggestions made by the Ministry of Defence in this regard before the Fourth Central Pay Commission.

Representation against acquisition of land by the Ministry of Defence near Pune

1395. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from the cultivators of Ravet and Kivale villages in Pune district against the decision of the Defence Ministry to acquire irrigated land for defence projects;

(b) what is the area of defence land in and around Pune city and how much is lying unused;

(c) what are the reasons for acquisition of more land in view of existence of unused land; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the entire question of surplus land in Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (c) Government have received a representation from the cultivators of Ravet and Kivale villages in Pune district against the purported decision of the Defence Ministry to acquire their lands for Defence Projects. There is no proposal, however, for the acquisition of these lands.

(b) The total area of Defence land in and around Pune city is 22823.99 acres and some portion out of this, is lying vacant.

(d) Government do not propose to appoint any such Committee.